AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

B.   Listing of Claims:

1) (Original) A method for handling an invoice generated at a biller and destined to a customer entity, the customer entity including a first user and a second user, said method comprising:

    a) providing at the biller a first permission level and associating the first permission level to the first user, said first permission level allowing the first user to process invoices of a first type;

    b) providing at the biller a second permission level and associating the second permission level to the second user, said second permission level allowing the second user to process invoices of a second type;

    c) enabling either one of the first user and the second user on the basis of their associated permission levels to process over a network the given invoice.

2) (Currently amended) A method for handling a given invoice generated at a biller and destined to a customer entity, the given invoice being characterized by a given amount, the customer entity including a first user and a second user, said method comprising:

    a) providing a first permission level and associating said first permission level to the first user, said first permission level allowing the first user to process invoices of a first type characterized by amounts in a first range of amounts;

    b) providing a second permission level and associating said second permission level to the second user, said second permission level allowing the second user to process invoices of a second type characterized by amounts in a second range of amounts;

    c) comparing the given amount with the first range of amounts to determine whether the given invoice is an invoice of the first type;

d) enabling the first user to <u>provide payment remittance information</u> ~~enter processing instructions~~ for transmission to the biller for the given invoice if the result of the comparison in c) indicates that the given invoice is an invoice of the first type;

e) comparing the given amount with the second range of amounts to determine whether the given invoice is an invoice of the second type;

f) enabling the second user to <u>provide payment remittance information</u> ~~enter processing instructions~~ for transmission to the biller for the given invoice if the result of the comparison in e) indicates that the given invoice is an invoice of the second type.

3) (Original) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein:

   a) the first range of amounts has a first lower boundary amount and a first upper boundary amount;

   b) the second range of amounts has a second lower boundary amount and a second upper boundary amount, where the second upper boundary amount is greater than the first upper boundary amount.

4) (Original) A method as defined in claim 3, wherein the first range of amounts and the second range of amounts are non-overlapping.

5) (Currently amended) A method as described in claim 2, ~~said method further comprising:~~

   ~~a) enabling the first user to provide payment remittance information for the given invoice if the given invoice is an invoice of the first type;~~

   ~~b) enabling the second user to provide payment remittance information for the given invoice if the given invoice is an invoice of the second type;~~

wherein the payment remittance information includes data selected from the set consisting of a credit card number, an authorization to debit a bank account, wire transfer information, direct deposit information, an amount to be paid on the invoice and an indication that a check will be mailed.

6) (Original) A method as described in claim 2, wherein the given invoice is associated to a given category selected from a plurality of categories, the first and second users having respective permission levels associated to respective categories.

7) (Original) A method as described in claim 2, wherein the first and second users have respective permission levels associated to respective stages of a multi-stage invoice handling process.

8) – 21) (Cancelled)

22) (Currently amended) A method for handling a given invoice generated at a biller and destined to a customer entity, the given invoice being characterized by a given amount, said method comprising:

a) providing a plurality of permission levels and associating the permission levels to respective users of the customer entity, each permission level allowing the associated user to process invoices characterized by amounts in a range of amounts;

b) for a given permission level, comparing the given amount with the range of amounts corresponding to the given permission level to determine whether the given permission level allows processing of the given invoice;

c) enabling either one of the users in said plurality of users to provide payment remittance information enter processing instructions for the given invoice on the basis of the comparisons in b).

23) (New) A method for handling an invoice generated at a biller and destined to a customer entity, the customer entity including a first user and a second user, said method comprising:

a) receiving at the biller registration information associated to the first user, the registration information including a user identifier associated with the first user;

4

b) receiving at the biller registration information associated to the second user, the registration information including a user identifier associated with the second user;

c) providing at the biller a first permission level and associating the first permission level to the first user, said first permission level allowing the first user to process invoices of a first type;

d) providing at the biller a second permission level and associating the second permission level to the second user, said second permission level allowing the second user to process invoices of a second type;

e) enabling either one of the first user and the second user on the basis of their associated permission levels to process over a network the given invoice.

24) (New) A method as defined in claim 23, wherein the invoices of the first type are associated to a first type of product/service offered by the biller and the invoices of the second type are associated to a second type of product/service offered by the biller.